(c) and (d) A Coordination Centre, headed by the Union Home Secretary with Chief Secretaries and Directors General of Police of the naxalite affected States as its members regularly reviews and coordinates steps taken by the States to check their activities. Besides, financial support to the naxalite affected States is also provided by the Central Government for combating left wing extremism. It also shares intelligence inputs and provides paramilitary forces on need basis. Two major naxalite outfits, namely CPMLPW and MCC along with their front organisations have been notified as terrorist organisations under POTA, 2002.

Penalty for insult to National Flag

2199. SHRI CHO. S. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cabinet has decided to impose severe punishment for insult of National Flag;

(b) if so, what are the main punishment for crimes of serious nature in the new law;

(c) when it is likely to come into force; and

(d) what steps are being taken to educate the public about the honour of the tricolour flag and how insults are to be prevented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ID. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Under section 2 of Prevention of Insults of National Honour Act, 1971 an act of insult to Indian National Flag is punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to three years, or with fine, or with both. While this punishment is considered adequate, it is proposed to amend the Act so as to provide, *inter-alia,* a minimum imprisonment of one year in the case of second or subsequent offence of insult to the National Flag.

(c) The Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha on March 7, 2003. It will come into force after it has been passed by both the Houses of the Parliament and assented to by the President.

(d) The provision of the Flag Code of India, 2002 have been publicised through press, electronic media etc. and circulated among all the State

Governments/UT Administrations, Ministries/Departments of the Government for the purpose of giving wide publicity. The Ministry of Human Resource Development has been addressed to include the part of the Flag Code of India relating to display of National Flag by members of general public and the conditions attached thereto in the syllabi of the schools, etc.

Modernisation of Police

2200. SHRI LALU PRASAD: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a scheme of modernisation of police has been sanctioned by the Government of India beginning 2000-01;

(b) whether the funding is on a matching basis (50 per cent Gol-50 per cent State-out of the Central share, half is again in form of loan);

(c) whether in view of financial constraints, the States find it difficult to arrange for the matching amount, resulting in partial utilization of the allotted funds; and

(d) whether the Union Government proposes to change the funding pattern for Bihar to 100 per cent Gol grant as is being done for North Eastern States; if so, by what time?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Central Government have revised the existing non-plan scheme for modernisation of the State Police Forces and enhanced the Central annual allocation to Rs. 1000 crore for 10 years from 2000-01.

(b) Yes, Sir. The scheme is run on a 50:50 cost sharing basis, out of which 50% share of the Central Government is given as grant-in-aid and the remaining 50% as loan to the States.

(c) Yes, Sir. Some of the State Governments have been expressing their inability to contribute their matching share due to financial constraints.

(d) No, Sir.